

**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET**

Date: December 15, 2004

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<b>TO:</b>	<b>EXAMINER S. WASYLCHAK</b>
<b>COMPANY/FIRM:</b>	<b>U.S. Patent and Trademark Office</b>
<b>PHONE NO.:</b>	
<b>FACSIMILE NO.:</b>	<b>1-703-872-9306 AND 1-703-308-2048</b>

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**COMMENTS**

**SERIAL NO. 09/368,996  
ATTY. DOCKET 2-604.2-1**

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Serial No. 09/368,996  
 Att. Docket No. 2-604.2-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Barber, Timothy P.

Serial No.: 09/368,996

Filed: August 5, 1999

Title: Method for Billing for Services Delivered Over a Computer Network

Group Art Unit: 2164

Examiner: S. Wasylchak

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INFORMAL COMMUNICATION

NOT FOR ENTRY  
(VIA FACSIMILE: 703-872-9306)

1. A method of billing, by a third party, for access by a consumer to information made available by a vendor over a computer network, with the billing based on how long the consumer elects to access the information, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) when a consumer visits a vendor network address and decides to purchase access to information made available over the computer network by the vendor, having the consumer exercise a third-party link that will connect the consumer to the third party;
- b) having the third party provide to the consumer an exercisable start-session link for starting access to the information; and
- c) having the third party both begin timing access and redirect the consumer to the information if the consumer exercises the start-session link;

wherein the third-party link and the start-session link are links on respective pages for presentation to the consumer by a browser hosted by equipment operated by the consumer, and further wherein the computer network is the Internet and the third party and the consumer are connected via the Internet (based on page 6, line 11, and page 2, line 12).

Respectfully submitted,



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